TL 4199

3 July 1993,

Progress report on the three:

Accommodation and conditions:

1. Princen has rented a room for them just behind his house and looks after all their needs, which also includes clothing. At the moment he is using money he received for his own medical treatment (Lea Jellinek knows about this).

I will discuss this with Steve Alston as the BCET has a Timor Relief Fund which can surely help. More on this later.

PP said any money from Australia should go through Lea who has a fast way of getting it through. Let me stress, he did not raise this question of money; I did.

2. PP (Poncke Princen) and the three went to Lopes da Cruz's house yesterday. The four there are not allowed out, can't receive phone-calls. They are not happy to be there. So, freedom with PP, incommunicado with LdC!

3. PP says a 'green frog' sits outside his house. I imagine that he does not want to leave the three in the house when he goes out, but how long can a situation like this continue? PP talks about a priest who comes to pray with the three and gives PP moral support.

4. Princen asked me to call Buyung and get him to help. Unfortunately the home numbers I have don't function, so I have not yet made contact.

5. PP will be at the LBH for discussions today. More about this later.

ICRC's way out:

1. Quartin Santos told Luisa yesterday his govt formally approached the ICRC with a request that the three be granted documents. Timorese can come out either for family reunion or as 'hardship' cases. Lisbon would prefer to avoid the latter to avoid upsetting Jakarta. Lisbon believes that it will take months to complete the formalities. They feel that the problem may be easier to solve (ie persuading Jakarta to let them go) once the high profile of this case dies down. Also, 'relatives' of the Timorese need to be found to legitimise this as a 'family reunion'. Lisbon says all this will take time.

As yet, the request to the ICRC is only for the three. (We should find out why. Luisa said it's about the different nature of the guarantees, or perhaps because the four are with LdC. We haven't yet received the guarantee signed by the four.)

2. PP's contact point on this has been Pierre Pont who left Jakarta Thursday and whose replacement is not due till 15 July. Pont is not yet back at the office in Geneva as he went straight on leave. Neither I nor AI have been able to find an official there

who knows what Pont promised PP he would do. Lacking other ideas, I wrote to Sommaruga yesterday explaining that we need to know what Pont agreed. He hasn't yet responded.

3. I told PP about Lisbon's move which delighted him. He was not pleased however to hear it could take months.

4. He plans today to go to the US embassy to get their support in pressuring Jakarta. (Clinton meets Suharto Tuesday in Tokyo. This should be a pressure point.)

5. PP said LdC told him he would also get in contact with the ICRC to help the four in his house to leave. Does he mean it? Who knows? PP was naturally very sceptical.

6. Tamrat Samuel phoned yesterday: A senior advisor to the SG has made a demarche with the Indon ambassador, asking for 'flexibility' on the seven, as a 'confidence-building measure'. He wanted to know about PP's discussions with Pont and asked for the document the three had signed, which I faxed to him. He told me Vendrell will be in London Monday and suggested that I contact him, which I will do. So, he clearly wanted us to know that the seven have become an issue at the SG's office. We agreed that I should visit Samuel when I'm in NY next week.

Background about the seven

AI has pieced together the whole story of the seven, how they fled to Kupang and why, their links with Agustinho who was caught at Dili airport and severely beaten, forcing him to divulge their names and flee from Kupang. This is coming out on Monday, with photos of all the seven. AI will make sure Vendrell gets a copy.

Finally, PP urges me to keep in touch with him. Jose should also phone him, if he has not already done so. He needs morale boosting although he is always bright and confident on the phone (except when he becomes extremely exhausted). He obviously believes the ICRC will help and will do it fast. I find it difficult to be confident about that.

I am sending this to Arnie, in particular for him to pick up the point about Clinton.

Carmel

Faxed to: Margherita, → Jose, Juan
Arnie
Luisa